The terms of the Kelkar Committee has been extended to examine and consider various recommendations received by it.

Release of anti-Ashthama Drugs

1066. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1679 given in Rajya Sabha on 11th May, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ventorlin CR is a sustained release preparation based on Salbutamol;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same has been allowed for marketing in the country in 4 mg and 8 mg tablets;

(c) whether dissolution study, blood level studies and other criteria evaluating invivo effects of the drugs was done;

(d) if so, what are the details of reports;

(e) the preparation has been allowed for human consumption without the permission of Government, the action taken;

(f) if not; and

(g) what were the tests conducted alongwith the report of each?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (g) Although control release preparations of old drugs would fall under the definition of 'now' drug as per the "Guidelines on Introduction of New Drugs", the State Drugs Controllers, in the absence of guidelines not under statute yet, may have been from time to time in consultation with their experts granting permission of control release preparations of old drugs including the one under Question.

The Central Government has no information as to whether permission of such control release preparatinos were granted on the basis of blood level studies, since such permissions were granted by the State Drugs Control Authorities.

Clearnace of combination Diclofenac Sodium and Paracetamol for marketing

1067. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that combination of Diclomenac Solium with Paracetamol has been allowed for marketing in the country by State Drug Authorities, Gujarat

(b) if so, what is the rational thereof and whether the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has studied and approved the rationality;

(c) whether any trials was conducted in the country for this combination;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this combination is being marketed in any other country of the would;

(f) the names of those countries;

(g) whether any expert were consulted before granting permission;

(h) if so, the names of the experts alongwith the details of findings of each;

(i) whether Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has studied the reports, date and are satisfied therewith; and

(j) if not, by when the Ministry proposes to study the rationality and other factors involved in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (j) Although fixed dose combination of drugs like Diclofenac Sodium and Paracetamol would fall under the purview of the

definition of New "drug as per the "Guideines on Introduction of New Drugs", different States have been interpreting differently and have been clearing certain Combinations of drugs. in consultation with their experts.

According to information available the fixed dose combination of Diclofenac Sodium and Paracetamol is not marketed in any developed country.

The Sub-Committee of Experts constituted by the Drugs Consultative Committee, a statutory body, under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, is engaged in screening drugs including Combinations moving in the market, not only from the angle of safety and effectiveness but also from the angle of rationality. This is a continuous process.

Control of blindness

1068. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of blind people in our country;

(b) what were the number of cases which developed blindness due to various Eye Diseases during last three years; year-wise;

(c) what are the main causes of blindness;

(d) whether it is a fact that certain Eye diseases and other diseases lead to blindness;

(e) if so, names of those diseases;

(f) what steps have been taken by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to control those diseases;

(g) what are the drugs used/required for control of those diseases;

(h) what is the total number of eye centres in the country under the Ministry which have been set up for control of blindness only;

(i) what are the drugs which are being given free of cost.

(j) whether it is a fact that these medicines are very costly; and

(k) what steps have been taken to make these medicines available at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) ICMR Survey of 1971--73 estimated 9 million people as blind in the country, who could not see well at 6 meter distance. The National Sample Survey Organisation Survey of disabled persons done in 1981 reported 3.47 million blind people who could not see well as 3 meter distance

(b) No such estimates are available.

(c) The main causes of blindness are:—

Cataract
Trachoma & associated insections
Small-Pox (since eradicated in June, 1975)
Malnutrition
Injuries
Glaucoma

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Some of the general diseases which may lead to blindness are Diabeties, Hypertension and Renal failure

(f) Treatment of these disease is available in the Hospitals.

(g) For the control of these diseases anti-hypertensive drugs e.g.

Aldomet
Methylodna
Hydrochlorthiazide
Propranolol
Atenolol
Metopralol